

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01  
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R 151502Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8001  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMCONSUL MONTREAL  
AMCONSUL QUEBEC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 37006

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINR, PFOR, FR, CA  
SUBJECT: ALLEGED FRENCH UNDERCOVER ACTIVITIES IN QUEBEC

REFS: A. QUEBEC 385 B. PARIS 36243

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. CTV REPORT ON ALLEGED FRENCH UNDERCOVER ACTIVITY IN FAVOR OF FRENCH SEPARATISM (REFTEL A) WAS PICKED UP BY AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE. IN ADDITION TO REPORTING WHAT CTV ALLEGED, AFP ALSO QUOTED PRIME MINISTER LEVESQUE AND OTHER QUEBEC SOURCES AS RIDICULING THE ENTIRE STORY. ACCORDING TO AFP, LEVESQUE CALLED THE STORY A FIGMENT OF SOMEBODY'S IMAGINATION AND FUNDAMENTALLY INSULTING BECAUSE IT IMPLIES THAT QUEBEC IS INCAPABLE OF ORGANIZING ITS OWN POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE. LEVESQUE WAS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING IN JEST THAT IF FRANCE WOULD BE WILLING TO MAKE UP THE PROVINCE'S FINANCIAL DEFICIT THEN IT WOULD BE A DIFFERENT STORY.

2. CTV EXPOSE WAS VERY POORLY COVERED IN FRENCH PRESS. LE MONDE CARRIED IT IN INSIDE PAGE AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 14. MORNING PAPERS DECEMBER 15 ARE IGNORING IT ALTOGETHER. ACCORDING TO LE MONDE, INITIAL FOREIGN MINISTRY REACTION WAS TO SAY THAT MR. ROUSILLON AND MR. DENIAU DID NOT REPRESENT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT

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IN THEIR ACTIVITIES IN QUEBEC. LATER FORMAL STATEMENT

DROPPED THIS LINE TO SAY THAT "THE CHARGES BY A CANADIAN INFORMATION MEDIUM AGAINST MESSRS DENIAU AND ROUSSILLON CONSTITUTE A COMPLETE FICTION". FOREIGN MINISTRY ALSO LET PRESS KNOW THAT CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAD REASSURED GOF THAT CTV STORY IS NOT EVEN WORTH INVESTIGATING. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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3. PRIOR TO BREAKING OF CTV EXPOSE, EMBOFF HAD CONVERSATION ON THIS SUBJECT WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR FOR THE AMERICAS, AMBASSADOR JACQUES DE FOLIN. ACCORDING TO DE FOLIN, DENIAU AND ROUSSILLON ARE PART OF THE WELL-FINANCED FRANCOPHONE LOBBY THAT IS LEANING HEAVILY ON FOREIGN MINISTRY TO COME OUT UNAMBIGUOUSLY IN FAVOR OF QUEBEC SEPARATISM, AND TO BEGIN A PROGRAM OF RELEVANT POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT. DE FOLIN SAID THAT ROUSSILLON AND DENIAU DO NOT DENY THAT THEIR TRIPS TO QUEBEC ARE LINKED TO THIS OBJECTIVE. DE FOLIN EMPHASIZED STRONGLY, HOWEVER, THAT PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING ISSUED A DIRECTIVE TO ALL FRENCH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, INCLUDING THE EXTERNAL SERVICES, PROHIBITING ALL ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF QUEBEC SEPARATISM. DE FOLIN SAID THAT PARLIAMENTARIANS AND OTHER LOBBYISTS ARE NOT CONTROLLABLE. HOWEVER, BUT HE DID NOT THINK FRENCH PUBLIC OPINION IS THAT INTERESTED IN THE SUBJECT. RUSH

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